

**CUSHINSTOWN**

NATIONAL SCHOOL

**Covid-19 School Reopening Update Two**

25 August 2020

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Friday 28th August 2020. Please be advised of the following changes that must be implemented to ensure the health and safety of all children and staff. We have now finalised our plans for drop-off and collection of the children every day.

Cushinstown National School appreciates your support as we try to safely reopen the school building. We request you do not to come on to the school grounds or into the school building unless it is essential. If you need to drop something urgently please call the school office and the secretary will direct you to a drop-off point outside the school building. We appreciate that dropping off the Junior & Senior Infant pupils to their teacher is essential, but we request that all other classes be dropped off at the school gate.

We would ask all parents to familiarise themselves with the following drop-off and collection routines for the safe delivery and collection of pupils from school. Please be patient as we endeavor to embed these necessary precautionary and protective practices at the beginning of the school year.

It is imperative that

* adults do not come within 2m of each other
* parents do not try to have meetings with members of staff at drop-off and collection times – meetings between parents and teachers can only take place by prior arrangement. (This may have to be more restrictive depending on guidance - it is quite possible that the recommendation will be for remote meetings/telephonic communications.)
* all parents adhere to the drop-off and collection plans as outlined below

Junior and Senior Infants-Please see separate note in relation to Junior and Senior Infants start and finish times.

The school doors will now open at **9.10am**. Children will proceed to their designated entry door and into their classrooms where their class teacher will greet them.

**Entry to School**

There are six designated entry points to the school as per previous letter.

Children from the classes listed below will enter the school at these points

Point 1: Front Main Entrance Right hand side **Junior Infants and Senior Infants**

Point 2: Door at back of school off yard right hand side **First Class and Fourth Class**

Point 3: Door at back of school on left hand side **AS Class**

Point 4: Door at front of school on left hand side **Fifth and Sixth Class**

Point 5: Exit door at **Third class** at back of school

Point 6: Exit door at **Second class** at back of school

**School Bus**

The school buses will arrive as normal and children travelling on the school bus must adhere to Bus Éireann guidelines. On arrival at the school the children will alight from their bus and walk to their designated entry point. (See above) Older siblings may walk with their younger brother or sister to the relevant external door and drop them off there but cannot enter the school there. Pupils can only enter and exit the school using their designated entry point. If two buses arrive at the same time, the first bus in the car park will allow all pupils off the bus. The second bus will wait in the car park and only will allow pupils to leave the bus once the first bus has emptied. Children must remain in their seats at all times if waiting for children to leave another bus. Please inform your child of this new procedure.

**Classroom Information**

Please remind children to proceed directly to their entry point and into their classroom. They should not congregate anywhere on the school grounds. Children should proceed to their assigned seats on arrival to school.

Their belongings should be clearly labelled, and not shared with others.

**Collection from School**

The school buses will now leave the school at 2.50pm.

We request that children with surname **A-M** are to be collected at 2.50pm and children with surname **N-Z** are to be collected at 3.00pm.

A separate note will issue for Junior and Senior Infants.

**Uniform**

Uniform will be worn as normal. Parents are asked however, to please ensure that children take off their uniform immediately after going home. We have not been advised by the DES to insist on washing uniforms daily. Should this advice be issued we will update parents accordingly.

**Visitors to the school**

Unfortunately, many of the really worthwhile initiatives that the school has provided for children over the past number of years will now not take place for the moment.

Before School and After School Clubs cannot be facilitated in our school building for the moment.

**Provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs**

Providing a structured and safe return to school for all pupils is very important, but in particular for pupils with SEN. SEN staff will be allocated to support pupils as normal.

**Other important information**

A cleaning plan and additional cleaning staff are provided by the Board of Management of the school to ensure the safety of children and staff. Masks or visors will be worn by staff when the 2m distance cannot be maintained. Please inform the school in writing of any child who cannot return to school due to a medical condition that would place them in the very high risk category. Provision can be made in exceptional circumstances to provide educational support for these pupils. If children display symptoms of COVID-19 and are isolated and sent home, they can only return to school on the advice of their GP/HSE. Children who are unwell should not be sent to school under any circumstances.

**Reminder to anyone attending school who has travelled abroad:**

Government policy, which is based on official public health advice, continues to advise against non-essential travel overseas for everyone. It is a requirement for anyone coming into Ireland, from locations other than those with a rating of ‘normal precautions’ (“green”), to restrict their movements for 14 days, and this includes school staff, parents and children or other students coming from abroad to attend school in Ireland. Restricting your movements means staying indoors in one location and avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible.

Cushinstown National School is doing it’s very best to follow the guidelines and implement the recommended procedures laid down by the Department of Education and Skills.

We ask for your patience and your understanding over the coming weeks as we implement the very different rules and protocols in the school. If something is not working we many have to change it and this will be communicated. We assure you that the children are at the centre of all our decisions. As you are aware this is a challenging and anxious time for parents and for staff. Working together is what will see us through this. We ask that you as parents work with us and understand we are working very hard to try to ensure that returning to school works, and everyone is as safe as possible.

We wish you all the very best.

Yours Sincerely,

**Carol O’Reilly**

**Principal**